

Maskell is doubtful

WYCOMBE Wanderers' veteran goalkeeper, John Maskell, who has been in such fine form this season, may miss tomorrow's (Saturday) visit to Walthamstow Avenue. John cracked his thumb in the Oxford game last week and may not be fit in time.

Brian Stevenson is standing by to take his place in what would be only his second senior match for the Blues. His previous game was at Ilford in the F.A. Challenge Trophy.

Maskell was not the only Wycombe player injured at Oxford. Dave Bullock is sporting a black eye at the moment while Howard Kennedy has a badly bruised top lip. Full back Paul Birdseye has a swollen knee but like Kennedy, played in Tues-

day night's friendly against Letchworth.

Three players should be fit for the game which gives Wanderers the chance of their third double in the Rothmans Isthmian League this season. The previous two were against Hendon and Oxford City. Three points are vital for Wycombe in this match. Currently placed fifth in Division One, they have already drawn six of their games — which is a loss of 12 points and a run of victories is essential if they are to press the leaders for the title.

Tomorrow's game at Walthamstow will not be easy. In the previous meeting at Loakes Park in December, the Blues struggled to clinch a 1-0 victory, thanks to a Dylan Evans

goal in the 35th minute. Evans, in fact, makes a habit of scoring against the Avenue. He hit all four goals in the corresponding game last year as well as this season's winner. It could be that he will win a place tomorrow.

Walthamians have recently been going through something of a purple patch. Their last two results were a 4-1 triumph at Tooting and a 3-0 home success over Woking at home. In the Tooting game, they hit three goals in 15 minutes.

ON MONDAY, Enfield and Banbury United will meet at Loakes Park for their undecided F.A. Trophy game. The teams drew at the Stadium, Banbury on Saturday and again hit a 1-1 stalemate at Enfield on Mon-

day. The match kicks off at 7.30 p.m.

ROTHMANS ISTMHIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Enfield	22	19	1	2	48	13 58
Dulwich	25	15	3	7	45	24 48
Ilford	24	14	4	6	56	32 46
Dagham	20	14	3	3	49	22 45
Wycombe	22	13	3	2	37	22 45
L'head	21	13	4	4	47	22 43
Tooting	23	12	4	7	29	30 40
Sutton	28	12	2	10	45	36 38
Kings	26	12	19	13	32	40 37
Barking	27	9	6	12	46	49 33
Slough	23	9	5	9	37	31 32
W' stow	28	9	5	11	38	36 32
Bishops	21	10	2	9	39	29 32
Hendon	24	8	5	11	32	24 29
Orford	24	9	4	12	32	37 38
L'stone	24	6	5	12	26	30 26
Hayes	25	6	13	23	46	24 24
Woking	24	6	6	12	33	46 24
*Clapton	24	9	2	13	35	49 21
Hitchin	17	6	2	9	28	35 20
Bromley	25	4	1	20	16	57 13
Walton	25	3	3	19	21	70 12

* 8 points deducted — council decision Nov. 29, 1974.

SALUTE TO THE WANDERERS

OVER the last week, the 'Free Press' has received several letters praising the achievement of Wycombe Wanderers in the F.A. Cup this season. Here's a selection from the correspondence:

SIR,

As a former resident in Widmer End and Hazlemere before moving to Amersham in March, 1939, and as a player who wore the quartered shirt occasionally during the few seasons after the Amateur Cup win, I felt I must go the couple of miles to cheer the Wanderers in their replay at Middlesbrough last evening.

Luckily, I purchased a ticket that had been returned unwanted from High Wycombe and I felt delighted to be amongst your block of very loyal supporters to witness a game that was a credit to you all.

I have watched very little Association Football for

pleasure or recreation as I have been too involved in playing or helping schoolboys as well as refereeing matches and games in the Old Boys' league.

I was impressed by the keenness and skill, application, and determination, knowledge and sportsmanship of the Wanderers who thoroughly earned and deserved the visual and vocal appreciation of the discerning crowd.

It was pleasing to talk to one of your supporters who remembered Reg Boreham, Grace, Cox, Braisher, Brown, Kipping, Badrick and Britnell, Rance, Reg Lacey, Vernon, Mines and Crump amongst former stalwarts.

On leaving the ground I was profoundly moved to hear local supporters rate the game so highly and one of them of many years standing was complimentary enough to say he had not enjoyed any game better for more than 12 months.

Tom Knowles, 2 Kildale Grove, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

SIR,

As a regular member of the Holgate End at Middlesbrough, I must admit that I have never seen a better team at Ayresome Park this season than Wycombe (except Boro). I was very im-

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pressed with the way your lads had been organised. I was particularly impressed with your number 10, midfield man Mick Holifield and goalie John Maskell.

May I wish your club continued success in years to come.

Graham Howard (15),
15 Killinghall Grove,
Hartburn Grange,
Stockton-on-Tees,
Cleveland.

SIR,

After our team's — Wycombe Wanderers — wonderful performance in the F.A. Cup, I am asking for those who enjoyed all the thrills of our team and who normally do not support us, do make an effort to come along to regular matches. There are more thrills to come so let's try and double our attendance. After all, the whole team and the manager, Brian, are doubly worth it!

W. J. Franklin,
19 Cromwell Road,
High Wycombe.

SIR,

I feel I must write to congratulate Mr. Lee and his magnificent team on a marvellous display tonight. The fact that neither trainer had to come out to the field at any time during the match is an indication of the sportsmanship that was shown. It was a hard-fought and very entertaining game and

a great credit to non-league football. I'm sure I speak for the majority of 'Boro's fans when I say thank you, Wycombe (even though you gave us a fright!). We'll be looking for your results every week from now on and, of course, we expect you to 'murder' the Isthmian League again. Best of luck.

J. Gibson,
3 Laurel Road,
Marton,
Middlesbrough.

SIR,

Last night I went to see Boro against Wycombe expecting a high score, but what a match! It was a superb performance by your team, you soaked up pressure and counter-attacked on a few occasions. I thought your goalkeeper Maskell was brilliant and it's a pity that I won't see him again until the 'cup' next year.

John Hamilton (14),
71 Hummersknott Avenue,
Darlington.